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Decoding 'Romance'

The *NewsWire* picks apart Lady Gaga's latest eccentricity: the "Bad Romance" music video.

A&E, pg 11

'Expert' horoscopes

Anxious about your future? Find out what the new year could hold for you.

Feature, pg 12

Men's basketball takes on Orlando

Chris Mack's first major tournament ends with two losses, one win.

Sports, pg 8



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Women's basketball 5-0



NewsWire photo by Danielle Meiners

Off and running

BY JOCELYN TAYLOR

Staff Writer

The No. 10 Xavier women's basketball team is 5-0 after going three wins over the holiday break, earning a first place finish in the Freeport Division of the Junkanoo Jam in Freeport, Bahamas.

After a 92-52 win over Mississippi Valley State at Cintas Center on Nov. 23, the Musketeers knocked off No. 18 Kansas and Minnesota in the Bahamas.

Senior April Phillips was named MVP of the Junkanoo Jam and Atlantic 10 Player of the Week, and junior Amber Harris made the Freeport All-Division Tournament Team.

While the strength of Phillips, Harris and junior Ta'Shia Phillips in the frontcourt has carried the Musketeers so far, the contributions of the backcourt has been a pleasant surprise in the hot start.

Sharp shooting freshman Katie Rutan has come off the bench to give the Musketeers 45.2 percent three point shooting on the season.

Rutan, the A-10 Rookie of the Week, led all players in the Mississippi Valley State game with 17 points, going 5-10 from behind the arc.

Sophomore shooting guard Tyeasha Moss has continued her progression, locking down opposing wings while contributing 10.2 points per game this year.

Meanwhile, the trio of April and Ta'Shia Phillips and Harris accounted for 123 points over the course of the three Thanksgiving break games.

"[Kansas was] hot in the first half. We were contesting a lot of shots but they were hitting them," Harris said. "We were able to ad-

just at halftime by communicating better defensively and that is why they were only able to shoot 36 percent in the second half."

In the championship game of the tournament against Minnesota, Phillips helped Xavier overcome a slow start by scoring 19 points as Xavier came back from a five point deficit for the 71-56 win.

"I didn't really do anything differently [in the second half]," Phillips said. "I saw the team come out in the second half with a lot of intensity so I wanted to step it up and have everybody come with me."

Coming home with the trophy, Xavier head coach Kevin McGuff was satisfied with the pair of victories over BCS Conference opponents.

"I'm really proud of our effort," McGuff said. "We played two really competitive games. We can be a terrific team when we share the ball on offense and [that is what we] did."

Hundreds left out of campout, Crosstown

BY MONICA LACO

Asst. Campus News Editor

Monday night's Crosstown Campout raffle guaranteed a tent for only 60 percent of hopeful Crosstown Shootout attendees. Names were drawn on Monday, Nov. 30. Out of 1,262 students who registered, only 775 will be camping out, said X-treme Fans president Tim Conroy. No priority was given to upperclassmen or active members of X-treme Fans.

"Two years ago, we considered using the X-treme Fans points system as a method for determining the order of tents, but the decision was not well advertised and we were heavily criticized...so we pulled the plug on that and did a first-come, first-served style campout," Conroy said.

Upperclassmen whose tents were not selected are among those upset with this year's raffle outcome. "It's kind of disappointing as a senior knowing that I won't be able to be there in the student section," said Susan Mittenzwei. "It's



NewsWire stock photo

Many juniors and seniors will not camp out or attend rivalry game vs. U.C.

frustrating knowing that there are probably some freshmen and sophomores in there who will get another chance to see the game live, whereas I won't," she said.

Students who were not selected to camp out have been placed on a waiting list in case any tent violates any of the rules throughout the weekend. The likelihood of students who have been waitlisted attending the game is unknown. "Two years ago, nobody violated the policy," said Conroy, but this year "will be interesting"

X-treme Fans has different requirements for campout participants this year. All campers are required to check in between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 4. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification. Also, all students must attend the women's Crosstown Shootout on Sunday, Dec. 6.

All rules and regulations are posted on the X-treme fans website. A ranking of tent orders will be posted online on Thursday, Dec. 3.

SGA to redefine relationship to student businesses, clubs

BY KATHRYN ROSENBAUM

Editor-in-Chief

Faced with a growing need to set a concrete policy regarding Student Government Association's relationships with student-run businesses, SGA has debated issues regarding funding businesses and recognizing businesses so the businesses can receive access to some SGA resources.

SGA is working to find its role of how to differentiate between student-run businesses and clubs. Student-run businesses offer students real-life business experiences, which includes managing their own budget, said SGA President Kiki Richardson. On the other hand, SGA ultimately oversees clubs' budgets, she said.

At the Nov. 30 Senate meeting, Senators debated the student busi-

ness recognition initiative. Junior Senator Kevin Contrera worked on this initiative after he was approached by junior co-owner of Flix Mike Carducci who wanted to use digital advertising system to advertise Flix. This signage is currently used for clubs.

A policy did not previously exist and businesses were treated on a case-by-case basis every year, said Contrera. This was time-consuming and often inconsistent because of a lack of policy, said Carducci.

In order to meet this need Contrera, with a committee of SGA members, created a proposal that would allow SGA to recognize businesses that met certain conditions: be owned by Xavier

Continued on page 3

Reivax promotes student musicians

BY KATHRYN ROSENBAUM

Editor-in-Chief

Reivax Records, Xavier's student-run record label, is in the process of building its name and contacts around Xavier and in the community.

Although board members of Reivax want to release a compilation CD, currently they do not have the money and instead are promoting local shows featuring Xavier students. Besides offering artists performance outlets, this offers business and marketing experience, said Greg Markgraf,

CEO of Reivax.

Currently, Reivax has received initial funding from the Music Department, which helped pay for legal fees, so Reivax could become a Limited-Liability Corporation and apply to be a not-for-profit business. The money also helps pay for Reivax's website.

Reivax is currently looking for sources of funding, including the Community Building Institute.

The CBI is currently working to reestablish King Records, a record label that operated from 1956 to 1968 in Cincinnati.

Reivax is seeking to receive

a grant from CBI to work with King Records and hopes to set up an official meeting with CBI in the coming month.

Dr. Tom Merrill, director of the music department at Xavier has been in correspondence with Byron White, director of the CBI and has spoken informally with others at CBI, he said.

"Reivax Records fills a definite need in the Xavier community in that it offers musicians new avenues for exploring their music and how they may market themselves to the music business world," Merrill said.

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Greek life still present at Xavier

Sigma Gamma Rho and Alpha Phi Alpha active on and off campus

By MEGHAN BERNEKING
News Editor

Though Xavier lacks an “Animal House-esque” Greek system, students may still see advertisements for programs sponsored by sororities or fraternities.

In addition to major-specific honors fraternities and the large business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, Xavier is home to two traditionally African-American Greek service organizations.

The Sigma Gamma Rho sorority first formed at Xavier on April 2, 2000 with the introduction of the Pi Upsilon chapter, which currently has six members.

The chapter focuses on service, leadership development, sisterhood and scholarship within the organization itself and the Greater Cincinnati area.

The Pi Upsilon chapter has sponsored a variety of programs both on campus and in the community.

Most recently, the chapter provided 20 free tickets for the Nov. 20 premiere of the movie “Precious” at Newport on the Levee.

“The ticket sign-ups were filled within 24 hours of our posting which was astounding.

“All of the issues brought up in the movie speak to [one of] our national programs Project Reassurance which attempts to combat issues associated with



Photo courtesy of Morgan Miller

“Little Sisters” at the Boys and Girls Club enjoy Halloween activities provided by their “Big Sisters” of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. The sorority recruits Xavier women to volunteer two Fridays a month to facilitate programs that encourage healthy living, positive self-esteem, sisterhood, professionalism and high achievement.

teen pregnancy through preventative measures,” senior Morgan Miller, president of the Pi Upsilon chapter, said.

The chapter also hosted “Poodle Week 2009: Sigma Mixtape,” a week of events celebrating the sorority’s aims and history, and co-sponsored the Nov. 9 “ReTHINK Afghanistan: A way forward” teach-in.

The sorority also sponsors “Big Sisters,” an ongoing mentorship program.

The program recruits Xavier

women to volunteer for programs at the Leblond Boys and Girls Club in Over-the-Rhine

Next semester’s programs will include movie nights featuring films about the cultures of the African Diaspora.

The chapter will also partner with other groups on campus to provide free transportation to the “Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America” exhibit at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Alpha Phi Alpha, as the first

intercollegiate Greek fraternity established for African-Americans, can claim influential members such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall and W.E.B. Dubois.

Xavier’s Sigma Gamma chapter was founded in 1991 and currently has two members on campus, senior Aaron Marble and junior William Washington.

Like the Pi Upsilon sorority chapter, the Sigma Gamma chapter places an emphasis on brotherhood, scholarship and service on campus and in the Cincinnati community.

“We hope to offer experiences and programs that facilitate success and development of the black experience here at Xavier [a predominately white institution],” Marble said.

Sigma Gamma will host a variety of events this weekend in honor of the anniversary of the founding of the Xavier chapter, including a visit to the National Underground Freedom Center and a prayer service to focus on upcoming exams.

Sigma Gamma regularly participates in Community Action Day and has decided to start a weekly service project tutoring students in Evanston.

The fraternity’s plans for next semester include the annual Miss Black and Gold Scholarship pageant, as well as events surrounding Black History Month and Martin

Luther King day.

Xavier’s Alpha Phi Alpha chapter has also earned state-wide awards, such as the Ohio chapter with the highest GPA.

“Historically, black sororities (and fraternities) were created to improve the quality of life within the community at times when the



Newswire photo by Jessica Thimons

Sigma Gamma chapter President senior Aaron Marble.

rights of peoples of color were up for debate.

“These organizations served as safe havens for students, tools for political activism and support groups for encouraging high scholastic achievement.

“With that in mind Xavier has historically seen the importance of having such groups on campus to aid in minority retention, creation of inclusive and diverse programming and in carrying out the Jesuit tradition of ‘men and women for others,’” Miller said.

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Senate OKs constitution with little resistance

By SARAH WIETEN
Campus News Editor

This Monday, Nov. 30, Senate, a branch of the Student Government Association passed all the proposed changes to its constitution.

Passing these changes required a three-fourths vote in the senate, which was easily reached with 19 senators voting “yes” and one senator absent.

Senate, led by the Association Affairs committee, has been working on the review, proposing and debating amendments for several weeks in their Monday meetings.

It did not include any changes regarding the relationship between Student Activities Council and Senate, though talk of such changes did cause heated debates in the last few weeks.

“I’m hoping they voted yes because they really were behind this new constitution.

“I think everyone recognized the need for these changes and the compromises that went into the process,” Neil Heckman, Association Affairs chair, said.

“The newly-passed constitution

is nowhere near perfect; however, it’s closer to the ideal than the old one. So I felt it would be better to vote for the new rather than just going with the status quo.

“There will be some dialogue specifically regarding the roles played by Senate, SAC and the Execs and how they interact going forward.

“I think the newly-passed constitution still has inconsistencies in what each part of SGA does and what each part plays in the whole,” junior Chris Hale, senate coordinator, said.

After being passed by Senate, the amended constitution must be passed by two of the following four groups/individuals to be considered legitimate: SAC, SGA President senior Kiki Richardson, a group of club presidents or a ballot referendum of the university at large, said Heckman.

The preferred two are the SGA president and SAC. SAC is voting on the constitutional changes Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Then it is given a final check by the assistant provost of student life and leadership and becomes the new constitution.

Heckman does not foresee any problems getting the revised constitution passed with any of these groups.

SGA reviews its constitution every three years.

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Students may go smoke-free

BY JAKE HEATH
Staff Writer

Working to promote a smoke-free campus, Xavier students are attempting to raise cancer awareness in the process.

Members of Colleges Against Cancer, with the help of Relay for Life, want to change Xavier's campus into a non-smoking campus.

President of Colleges Against Cancer, senior Jennifer Coogan, says that there has been a significant decrease in the number of smokers around campus.

"I know we are going to receive a lot of negativity from smokers, but if Xavier became smoke-free, it would be extremely beneficial to the health of students and faculty," she said.

Although there hasn't yet been a formal proposal, Coogan hopes to meet with Student Government Association to discuss Xavier's smoking policy.

For many reasons, there have been mixed reviews on the idea. Freshman Matt Rosenthal, a non-smoker, said that "campus shouldn't be completely smoke-free. Maybe they could compromise by putting in smoking-specific benches around campus."

There are those that still support this decision with high enthusiasm. Freshman Pat Deacon, who lives on campus, says that he "hates waking up to a puff of



NewsWire photo by Jake Feldhaus

Freshman Kuhlman Hall residents Dan Hellmann, Alex Valenti, Matt Lorenzo, Ryan McReynolds and Phil Krzeski (l-r), smoke outside of their residence hall. Some student groups are hoping smoking will be banned from campus altogether.

smoke [in his face]."

However, some dislike the idea entirely. "I like the way things are now; people should keep their right to smoke," freshman Arthur Havey said.

Colleges around the country have already begun the start of smoke-free campuses.

The University of Louisville just issued their first campus-wide smoke-free policy. Originally, its Health and Sciences campus had the only smoke-free policy in conjunction with the hospitals nearby, but due to many student complaints they extended the policy to all campus grounds.

Miami University of Ohio

as well as Northern Kentucky University have followed suit in establishing a smoke-free environment on campus.

Colleges for Cancer has been supporting this decision for some time and hopes to continue working on it throughout next semester.

On Nov. 19, they held an event called the Great American Smokeout, handing out gum with the slogan "blow bubbles, not smoke."

Currently all Xavier buildings, including residence halls, are smoke-free.

Those who do smoke should smoke 15 feet away from a build-

SGA redefines student businesses

Continued from page 1

students, have a majority of Xavier Student employees, provide a service that impacts the greater Xavier community and met with the Club Relations committee.

If a business meets these conditions and is recognized, it is eligible to take a zero-interest loan with SGA, although this does not guarantee businesses will be granted loans, according to the proposed constitutional amendment.

Businesses can also advertise on digital advertising system, have a table at Club Day and use SGA paper resources for banners.

SGA proposes to charge a \$15 fee to "maintain the essence of a realistic business environment," according to the proposal.

"The best benefit of this initiative is the zero-interest loan, which can help Flix continue to expand," Carducci said.

This initiative helps SGA support all student endeavors and not just clubs, he said.

"SGA is undergoing a paradigm shift to advance needs of all students, not just clubs" said Senate Coordinator junior Chris Hale.

The initiative was not proposed at the Nov. 30 meeting, and the committee will meet to finalize an initiative that will be proposed in one of the first meetings of next semester, Contrera said.

The debate at the Nov. 30

meeting raised questions regarding details of the initiative, Hale said. Details regarding loans and who will oversee the procedure for the businesses' loan process and what will happen if a business defaults on its loan need to be worked out before the bill passes, he said.

At the Nov. 16 Senate meeting, Senators voted on a proposal separate from the SGA-recognized business initiative that would grant \$1,000 to Reivax Records, the student-run record label at Xavier. This proposal was voted down 5-14 with one abstaining vote.

Reivax asked for funding, which is not repaid, instead of a loan because Reivax currently does not have the revenue to pay back a loan, said Ryan Clover, vice president of artists and repertoire at Reivax.

Hale, who met with Steve Boller, chief operating officer of Reivax, was one of the senators that proposed allocating \$1,000 to Reivax. He said this was a "senate-worthy initiative to fund."

Many on the board opposed this measure because they thought \$1,000 was a lot of money to give a student business and it should be given as a loan, not as funding Reivax would not have to repay.

Richardson was against this proposal and said she would consider vetoing it if it had passed. She thought a loan would be a better option because it would offer students business experience.

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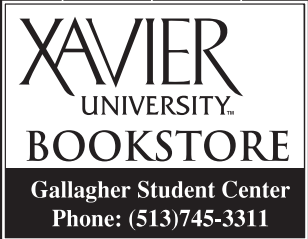
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POLICE NOTES

Nov. 16, 3:36 p.m. – A student reported the theft of his or her All Card and room key from his or her unlocked room in Kuhlman Hall.

Nov. 17, 12:03 p.m. – A Physical Plant employee reported the presence of graffiti on the exterior of Kuhlman Hall.

Nov. 17, 6:45 p.m. – Campus Police and Norwood Police received a report that a vacant garage near the E lot in Norwood Plaza had been broken into.

Nov. 18, 12:42 a.m. – A Physical Plant employee reported that someone had splattered ketchup throughout an office in Alter Hall.

Nov. 18, 1:07 p.m. – An employee reported that someone had broken into a basement window of the Parish Center and ransacked several offices. An unknown quantity of stamps and \$15 in change were stolen.

Nov. 18, 8:28 p.m. – A student reported being struck in the back of the head by a beer bottle thrown from a moving

vehicle as he or she crossed Dana Avenue. Cincinnati Police was notified.

Nov. 18, 9:36 p.m. – An employee reported the theft of a laptop computer left unattended in Schmidt Field House.

Nov. 19, 11:34 a.m. – A student reported the theft of his or her bathroom key left unattended in Brockman Hall.

Nov. 22, 2:09 a.m. – A non-student driving recklessly through the Husman and C lots was cited for reckless driving and issued a trespass warning.

Nov. 22, 6:30 a.m. – A student reported that he or she was assaulted by other Xavier students during a party off campus in Norwood. Further assistance was declined.

Nov. 23, 4:31 p.m. – A student reported the theft of his or her wallet from his or her room in Kuhlman Hall. The unknown suspect used a credit card from the wallet four times to make fraudulent charges. Cincinnati Police was notified.

Nov. 23, 8:57 p.m. – An employee reported the theft of a wallet and iPhone from an unlocked locker in the O'Connor Sports Center.

Nov. 24, 12:56 a.m. – Cincinnati Fire and Rescue trans-

ported an underage student to Good Samaritan hospital for possible alcohol poisoning.

Nov. 24, 1 a.m. – Campus Police responded to a loud party in the Village. A beer pong table and alcohol were confiscated from the room. Residence Life will follow up.

Nov. 24, 9:37 p.m. – An officer on patrol discovered damage to an emergency exit door in the Armory. Physical Plant was notified.

Nov. 28, 2:05 a.m. – Cincinnati Fire and Rescue responded to Flynn Hall for the smell of smoke. The building was checked but a source was unable to be located.

Nov. 29, 4:13 p.m. – A student reported that someone had broken into his or her apartment in the Village over break. Nothing was taken.

NOTE OF THE WEEK

Nov. 20, 12:37 p.m. – Campus Police captured a pit bull running loose in the Health Center and I lots. The dog was released to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

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EDITORIAL | SGA & SMALL BUSINESS

Real governments give arts grants

On Nov. 16, the Student Government Association overwhelmingly voted down a proposal to grant \$1,000 to Reivax Records, the emerging record label for Xavier student musicians. This decision comes at a time when SGA is preparing to define its role in issuing loans and benefits to student businesses and clubs.

Enacting policies that define (a) SGA’s role and (b) distinguish clubs and student businesses will decrease the amount of time and effort devoted to issuing grants and loans, making it a valuable initiative. However, if the recent SGA decision is any indication of what these policies might be, student businesses have serious cause for concern.

In the case of Reivax Records, SGA denied the request on the grounds that Reivax is not a club, and should not receive free funding; rather, it should receive a loan similar to other student businesses in order to promote real businesses.

However, governments in the real world play a role in financially supporting artistic ventures. If SGA seeks to emulate real governments, it should do the same by funding a creative outlet for student musicians.

Reivax presented itself as a not-for-profit artistic venture, seeking a small grant (relative to the size of SGA’s budget) that would have gone a long way in helping Reivax achieve its goals. SGA should reconsider its decision on these grounds, and should make exceptions for non-profits and artistic ventures while writing its new policies.

More importantly, SGA should take a step back and remember that it is charged with distributing our money, from our tuition dollars. In the Reivax case, most students would have supported \$1,000 going toward a student record label.

New policies should make it easy for students to start new businesses or receive grants when they are appropriate, assuming they have prepared workable business plans and can demonstrate the business’ value to the student body.

Keep in mind that business ventures give students an unparalleled educational experience, and as we have seen, can serve as unique creative outlets. SGA should expand these entrepreneurial opportunities to all students.

EDITORIAL | CROSSTOWN SHOOTOUT

Policy change needed for students

Unless you’re one of 750 students lucky enough to freeze to your sleeping bag this weekend, you’re probably fairly bummed. This year, 450 more students than tickets went in on the Crosstown Campout lottery. 450.

Those 450 once-hopeful students will have to watch the legendary game from their room, or the Student Center. They were ready to scream themselves hoarse for Xavier in Cintas, but instead will watch dejectedly from afar.

How many of these sad students are freshmen and sophomores? Luckily, in two years, they’ll have the chance to do it again. Even better, perhaps by then, Cintas will have set aside more seats for students during the Shootout, as would be the proper solution.

But how many of those unlucky 450 students are juniors and seniors? This was the last chance they ever had to sit in the student section for a Crosstown Shootout game. Many of them have never even participated in the tradition to begin with.

The Newswire suggests a new tactic, one rarely seen at this university outside of registering for classes: preferential treatment for upperclassmen.

Next time the Crosstown Shootout comes to this campus, the lottery should be arranged so that juniors and seniors have seniority. Considering that they will never have the chance to do so again, this is only fair. Freshmen and sophomores would still be able to put their tent in, but the waiting list and general drawing should be arranged so that juniors and seniors get the first chance to cheer for Xavier on the court.

We want to be at the Crosstown Shootout. Freshmen and sophomores, you have your chance to do it again. Let the juniors and seniors have their chance so that you can get that same opportunity as an upperclassman.

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LETTERS

Dirty money at XU

Hey Xavier, did you know that parts of our school are linked to terrorist activity? Neither did I, until a few weeks ago. I attended my first ever Students for Economic Justice meeting, where we discussed some of the dubious activities of Chiquita, whose former CEO was Carl Lindner, one of Xavier’s big donors.

Starting in 1997, while Lindner was CEO, and ending in 2004, Chiquita paid a total of \$1.7 million to a Colombian paramilitary group, who was known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Columbia and deemed terrorists by the U.S. In 2007, Chiquita admitted to doing so and to helping traffic 3,000 AK-47s to the group. The U.S. Department of Justice fined the company \$25 million for supporting a terrorist organization.

Chiquita claims they paid the group to protect their workers from revolutionary guerrilla forces. Other sources say they used them to force the local people off the land and quiet workers wanting to unionize. While we cannot be entirely certain of their motive, we can be sure that they funded a group that the U.S. deemed a terrorist organization due to their involvement in forced displacement, homicide, torture and forced disappearance, among other crimes.

By funding this group, Chiquita and Carl Lindner supported and benefited from these atrocities. So, while I appreciate Xavier’s generous benefactors, I am uncomfortable (and I think the university should be also) with the idea that Lindner Hall and other buildings were funded by money made through unjust practices.

Emily Williston | ‘10

Jesuits respect different views

After reading “University limits message of Alliance demonstration” by Sarah Wieten, I was outraged by Deb Del Valle’s statement that the official school position was in keeping with our mission and identity. The Jesuit mission and identity is quite dear

to me, so I had to disagree with Del Valle.

I attended a local Jesuit high school, St. Xavier. A few years before I was in school there, St. Xavier invited pro-choice activists to the school in order to educate and engage in discussion with the student body.

This group was certainly not censored from giving their beliefs. Was this act not in keeping with St. Xavier’s Jesuit mission and identity, something that (in theory, if not in practice in this case) it shares in common with our university? Certainly, the school was against abortion, but it did not try to censor the differing viewpoint. The Jesuit tradition calls us to fully understand and clearly articulate all viewpoints before making our own decision.

The official Roman Catholic viewpoint is just as Del Valle stated. However, the Jesuit view on this matter is much more nuanced. The Jesuit tradition would be to allow people to speak their mind, regardless of “official school position.”

Deb Del Valle seems to understand official Roman Catholic teaching quite well; however, this understanding of our Jesuit mission and identity does not reflect the Jesuit tradition that I have been taught.

Clayton Schroer | ‘11

Flier woes

Among the many fliers and announcements that litter the Alter Hall bulletin boards, the Xavier University Alliance was able to make a particular piece of paper stand out from the rest: Angie Zapata was violently murdered at the age of 20 because she was transgender. A person who is transgender has a one in 12 chance of being violently murdered for just being who they are.

The first problem I have with this flier is the one in 12 statistic. I was able to find something online that said one expert has estimated that the rate of murder for transgender persons *may* be as high as one in 12.

Manipulating the numbers into a scare tactic takes away from the actual tragedy of these crimes.

Furthermore, I was suspicious of the wording “for just being who they are.” When you look up the story of Angie Zapata, you find out that after “gender reassignment surgery” Zapata engaged in sex with a man who later discovered that “she” was once a he. This in no way justifies murder.

However, someone with herpes is used to the idea they have herpes. They shouldn’t have sex without divulging this information.

I am in no way saying that being transgender is a disease and, again, put in the simplest of terms, murder is not good. I am simply stating that Angie Zapata made a choice for the man she slept with, and in doing so she didn’t respect him being who he was.

Rick Hanolt | ‘10

Ticket complaint

Xavier basketball is supposed to be the best time of the year to be a Xavier student. Instead, this year, the gatekeepers of the Xavier basketball student tickets decided to impose their will.

Their goal: to make Xavier a more competitive and electrifying atmosphere.

The result: a bunch of angry students on Victory Parkway over a policy worse than health care.

This ticket policy is by far the worst legislation passed at Xavier during my four years here. In years past, students had a say in the matter.

Now you have to sign your All Card I.D. number in blood. Xavier’s ticket administration has the right to deny tickets to students who claim them online and then don’t show up. Did Xavier’s ticket administration stop to think outside of whatever cloud their heads were in when they devised this abomination?

To start with, there’s a virtual pick-up window online that has a time limit on when tickets can be claimed. Have a job during those hours? Tough luck, sucker. Have a class or going out of town? Have fun watching the game on FSN Ohio.

letters continued
on page 7 . .

Drive safely, students

By **BRANDON MCCLAIN**
Editorial Columnist

I'm glad to be back from the holiday weekend, but I miss home already. Not only do I miss the delicious food and great company, but I also miss it because being there means that I don't have to make the drive from here to Chicago and worry about stupid people on the road.

While driving back Sunday, I saw something I had never seen before: seven separate car wrecks between Chicago and Cincinnati. As far as I could tell, none of these were life-threatening and the sporadic rainfall may have influenced them. Regardless, the matter of paying attention while driving was clearly neglected that Sunday.

When I arrived back at Xavier, I called my mom to tell her that I arrived safely. She asked me why it took longer than usual to get back. As soon as I mentioned the seven car wrecks, she used her favorite line on me: "It's not

your driving I'm worried about, it's those other crazy people out there that I'm worried about."

A concerned mother's words may seem trivial, but let's be real here: Even though she's my mom and I am a bit biased, she has a good point. Too many people are in too big of a hurry to get somewhere. On top of that, they're distracted.

Our generation excels at these traits—multi-tasking and hurrying. Yet when combined with driving, especially in hazardous conditions, those skills can lead us to potentially horrible ends.

We all know that talking on the phone while driving is a hazard, especially among people our age or younger, but with the new distraction of texting while driving, things are getting way out of hand.

I know you think that you can get in that last "lol" or "ttyl" while you're texting and driving, but seriously, it can wait. It won't be so "lol" when you wind up veering over the shoulder and running

into the guard rail, or when you manage to hit a pedestrian because you hopped the curb on a turn.

I take these things seriously because recently I had a friend who was hit by a car driven by a distracted driver. I was having fun, until I found out at one in the morning last Friday and the reality of the situation set in. I was shaky about driving back home that night. My friend ended up OK, but he was lucky because everything that could go "right" in that situation did go "right."

Let's remember that for every person who has some sort of luck on his or her side, there's someone else out there who was not so lucky because someone was distracted while they were driving. Pay attention; it's not that hard. And if you absolutely have to send that final text, pull into a McDonalds and get some fries while you're at it.

Let's not forget the value of lives and driver safety because of a text that could wait.

Dealing with finals week

By **MFREKE AKPANINYIE**
Editorial Columnist

The end of the fall semester is fast approaching and is a hectic and busy time for most students. Going home and seeing family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday is a nice break, but it can also be an academic trap at the same time.

We forget that there are still three important weeks between now and the end of finals. It may seem like the end is near, but it is still important to stay focused and work hard. Here are some suggestions to help you handle the last weeks of the semester:

First, find a "spot." By spot, I mean a place where you can concentrate and get some work done with the least amount of distractions. This may be your dorm room or a study lounge in your building. A word of advice to the first year students: don't rely on

the library. During the week before finals and finals week itself, the library becomes the hottest spot on campus. Students who never ventured to the library all semester suddenly appear to study. If you want use the library, I suggest going early to find a good seat.

Secondly, eat well and get rest. You would be surprised how simple this sounds, but many students forget this crucial aspect. Remember that your body is like a machine and needs its fuel to keep going and run well. Try to eat at least twice a day and get some sleep. A nap mid-day might not hurt either. Just remember that if you are fully rested and fed, you will be all the more focused and better able to study.

My third suggestion is to divide and conquer. Take a look at all the tests and papers you have due during finals and divide the work into manageable portions.

By dividing the work and setting a schedule, it helps de-stress you as a student and the work seems less difficult. Suppose you have two 10-page papers due during finals. Instead of writing 20 pages in one night, divide that over four days and write five pages a day. That goal is more realistic and less stressful and will ensure better papers.

Lastly, just take it one day at a time. Finals can be a stressful time of the year, but if you put in the work and study, it is more than manageable. Don't look at the whole week as the week from hell. Look at each day as its own hurdle. Don't dwell on the stuff you have on Thursday and Friday when you still have stuff to do on Tuesday.

Relax and breathe easy. Finals are not meant to break you down as a person. They are there simply to test what you've learned all semester.

window and get your ticket just before tip-off. Missed the online ticket window? Better bring \$26 if you want to get into the game. And don't plan on sitting with any of your friends in the student section.

And how about the Cross-Town Shootout tickets? Seniors who have been with Xavier for four years have the same chance of getting a ticket as freshmen who just as of last year couldn't locate Xavier on a map. And now we are forced to go to the women's Crosstown Shootout as well?

Newsflash: the women's team doesn't need you to force anybody to attend their games. They're ranked higher than the men's team. They aren't a charity case. Xavier's ticket policy is absolutely demeaning to the women's team. Originally, the women would have been able to look to the stands and feel proud that all these people were here because

they wanted to watch great basketball. Now they have to wonder if they're here to get their men's tickets.

Xavier's new ticket policy is arrogant, counterproductive and flat-out ignorant. I'd love to meet the people who came up with this. The ironic thing is that most of these people are going on just their fourth year of watching Xavier basketball. I'm going on my ninth. Some are going on their 22nd.

I watched Xavier win four games in four days to sneak into the NCAA Tournament back in high school while these people thought Xavier was just another character on X-Men. Now these same people are telling lifetime Xavier fans when they can and cannot get their student tickets.

Xavier's philosophy: paint yourself blue and you're X-treme. Any fan of Xavier pre-college is a poser if he's not X-treme.

Tyler Grote | '10

—MALL TALK—

with Katherine Monasterio & Amy Windhorst

What small business would you start on campus?



Sayo Akinyosoye
Class of '11

"A different food place on campus."



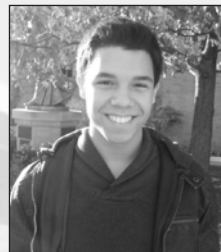
Elizabeth Davis
Class of '12

"A real grocery store."



Javin Brown
Class of '12

"A McDonald's stand."



Matthew Woppel
Class of '13

"A burlesque dance club."



Caleb Childers
Class of '13

"I'd probably start a White Castle, because they're small and easy."



Tyler Gray
Class of '10

"How about a convenience store?"



Andrew Northcraft
Class of '10

"A bicycle delivery sandwich shop."



Emily Ward
Class of '13

"A smoothie place."

Musketeers stung by Disney World Adventure

Xavier’s offensive woes, poor free throw shooting leads to pair of losses in preseason tournament

BY DOUG TIFFT
Sports Editor

Seated in the front of a charter flight from Orlando International Airport back to Lunken Airport Sunday evening, Xavier head coach Chris Mack and his team of assistant coaches diligently poured over video clips on their laptops, attempting to figure out how a team that had been beating opponents by over 36 points per game could leave the Old Spice Classic with a sixth place finish.

The Musketeers came home from Mack’s first major tournament with a sour taste in their mouths after a pair of poor shooting games in losses to Marquette and Baylor, sandwiched around a victory over Creighton.

The epitomy of the offensive struggles was sophomore guard Jordan Crawford, who went a combined 10-39 in the two losses. Crawford’s athleticism, which is often utilized in transition, led him to attempt frequently contested shots early in the shot clock, drawing widespread criticism, something Mack was not ready to hear.

“Jordan’s not a selfish player,” Mack said on his radio show Monday night. “I think at times he has that tendency [to settle for quick shots]. It’s just easier to shoot a jump shot rather than to work it around the offense and really break down the defense. While I want him to be aggressive, he’s got to do it within the context of the offense.”

With Crawford misfiring (1-6 from three point range), the offense struggled mightily in the



Newswire photo by Danielle Meiners

Junior Jamel McLean led Xavier with 17 points in a 69-64 loss to Baylor on Nov. 29. McLean is now averaging 8.3 points and 7.2 rebounds per game.

69-64 loss to Baylor on Sunday, as the Bears used their length—three starters 6’10” or taller—to match up in a 2-3 zone.

The zone not only negated much of Xavier’s interior effectiveness—centers senior Jason Love and sophomore Kenny Frease combined for six points and nine rebounds in 43 minutes—but adequately contested Xavier’s perimeter shooters, holding the Musketeers to 38.9 percent from three point range.

Despite cold shooting efforts—the 71-61 loss to Marquette featured 36.2 percent shooting from the Musketeers—Xavier still had a chance to steal each of the games that ultimately went to the loss column, if not for poor free throw shooting.

The Musketeers shot 53.1 percent from the charity stripe in the two losses, a deficiency that jumped out at Mack in his film session.

“We are going to work to cor-

Familiarly inoffensive				
Xavier’s struggles on the offensive end led to two losses in the Old Spice Classic. Cold shooting has been a theme in early season tournaments in recent years for the Musketeers, even in tournament victories in the 2008 O’Rielly Auto Parts Puerto Rico Tipoff. Frequent trips, and conversions, at the free throw line saved the Musketeers in 2008, but here is a look at how the past two Thanksgiving events stacked up offensively:				
Year	FG	3Pt.	FT	Points
2009-10	77-184	21-53	30-55	205
Pct./Avg.	41.8	39.6	54.5	68.3
2008-09	57-143	13-48	74-104	201
Pct./Avg.	39.9	27.1	71.2	67.0

rect the free throw shooting,” Mack said. “For those guys that [improving free throw percentages] is just not that important to, I have to make it more important because free throws win games. And it could have won us at least one of those games in Orlando.”

With the offense struggling, Xavier’s packline defense kept opponents out of the lane throughout the tournament, allowing only 38.3 percent shooting in the three games. However, ineffective closeouts on perimeter shooters—particularly from junior Jamel McLean, whom Mack said was “in La-La land” to start to the Baylor game—allowed Marquette and Baylor to shoot 51.4 from three point range.

“We have younger players on the perimeter that have to be able to lock in off of the ball and have awareness of where the man is at all times,” Mack said. “Hopefully it is a learning experience for our guys because the percentage that

we gave up in Orlando is much too high if we are going to be a defensive team that we have been.”

As Xavier turns their sights toward a grueling December slate that begins with a Dec. 4 match-up with MAC Conference contender Kent State, Mack and the Musketeers do have a few building blocks to work with.

Love turned in a career afternoon with 21 points, 19 rebounds and five blocks against the undersized Marquette front line in the opening round loss, and Terrell Holloway’s turnover-free 12 points and six assist performance highlighted the 80-67 win over Creighton.

Still, the rays of hope probably had a tough time penetrating the solemn mood in the coaches’ cabin on the way home on Sunday.

“[All of the coaches] just focused on what we can do to be a better team, regardless of the opponent,” Mack said. “We have a lot of areas to improve.”

XU student band is peppering up in-game atmosphere

BY CRIS FREESE
Staff Writer

A timeout is called on the court. The Xavier Musketeers have just taken the lead, and Cintas Center is rocking.

The fans are all on their feet, and what’s that sound?

Not music coming from the loudspeakers above, but the pep band playing Bon Jovi’s “Living on a Prayer.”

The student section and the rest of the fans join in unison, belting out the famous refrain.

In the 2009-10 season, look for this to be customary. The university is looking to get the band



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Matthew Westgate
more involved at games by having them play music instead of using recorded tunes and by getting the band on the floor before the

game.

In fact, the band is so committed to impacting the atmosphere at games, they met with the athletic department and the cheerleaders to coordinate in-game activities and song opportunities.

Along with being more involved, the band is introducing more music at games to pump up the crowd, including traditional songs, such as, “Build Me Up, Buttercup” and “The Blues Brothers.”

They are also modernizing the music by using new songs, like “Down,” “Good Girls Go Bad” and more.

Plus there are the newly established traditions such as the playing of “Sweet Caroline” at half-time and “Respect” when Xavier wins.

The band isn’t there for enjoyment and musical purposes only, however, as Xavier’s Director of Instrumental Activities, Matthew Westgate, has stressed the alternative functions of the group.

“We’re there to support the team and to coordinate with the cheerleaders and mascots to pump up the fans,” Westgate said. “Hopefully we can get the crowd more involved and make Cintas Center a tough place to play.”

Creating such an environment

has been a push for the men’s basketball program in recent years, one that paid off when EA Sports dubbed Cintas Center the third toughest place to play in college basketball, with the pep band leading the way.

“The pep band is a staple of college basketball,” Xavier head men’s basketball coach Chris Mack said. “Ours is much improved this year and helps make game night at Cintas Center energetic, electric and one of the best in the land.”

To accomplish the improvements, Westgate is rapidly expanding the size of the band.

“We’d like to have a band upwards of one hundred people,” Westgate said.

The pep band is open to anyone who plays a musical instrument. A student doesn’t have to be a music major to be in the band.

If a student joins the band, they don’t need a ticket to the game—they have a guaranteed free seat.

Perhaps most importantly, the more games that a member attends, the greater the opportunity for the student to travel to the NCAA tournament.

So the next time you hear the band strike up “Don’t Stop Believing” at the game, join in with the music and the cheers.

The louder the Cintas Center is, and the more involved the students are, the more fun it will be for everyone.



Newswire photo by Danielle Meiners

The Xavier pep band has expanded its repertoire of songs this season.

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Season of ups and downs comes to close for XU

By Scott Mueller
Asst. Sports Editor

The Xavier University volleyball team wrapped up its season with a loss to the No. 20 Saint Louis University Billikens in the Atlantic 10 semi-finals.

“We played hard, but we came up against a team that had our number all year,” head coach Floyd Deaton said. “We didn’t match up well with Saint Louis, we never have, all year long.”

SLU is a much more experienced team than the Musketeers. Five of the Billiken starters are seniors.

The first and third sets were close, but, the Muskies would fall in straight sets, 25-21, 25-15, 25-23.

The loss came after Xavier won their first match of the A-10 tournament against Charlotte. Xavier dropped the first set to the 49ers 25-23, but battled back to win the next three and advance on to the

next round.

Despite riding the momentum of a postseason victory, the Musketeers fell to the Billikens for the third time. All three matches have been sweeps.

The loss marked the final game for seniors Kelly Ruth, Hillary Otte and Lauren Kaminsky.

The seniors led the Musketeers to a 20-12 overall record, 11-4 in conference, earning them the three see in the A-10 tournament.

Ruth led the team with 321 kills, Otte was second with 232, and Kaminsky was fourth with 226.

All three seniors collected A-10 season ending awards. Ruth was named the A-10 Student-Athlete of the Year and was also named to the A-10 Second team. Otte was also named to the second team. Kaminsky was named, along with Ruth, to the Academic All-Conference team.

Despite the loss of three qual-

ity seniors and a large portion of the offense, Xavier remains a young club, with two true freshman starters in Stephanie Vorherr and Alex Smith.

Vorherr, a defensive specialist, was named the A-10 libero and rookie of the year. Both Vorherr and Smith were named to the A-10 All Rookie Team.

The future is bright for the Muskies. Next season the Musketeers will be led by current junior Claire Paszkiewicz. Paszkiewicz was named to the A-10 first team.

With a returning first teamer and Smith and Vorherr continuing to improve, the Muskies look to make a deeper run next season.

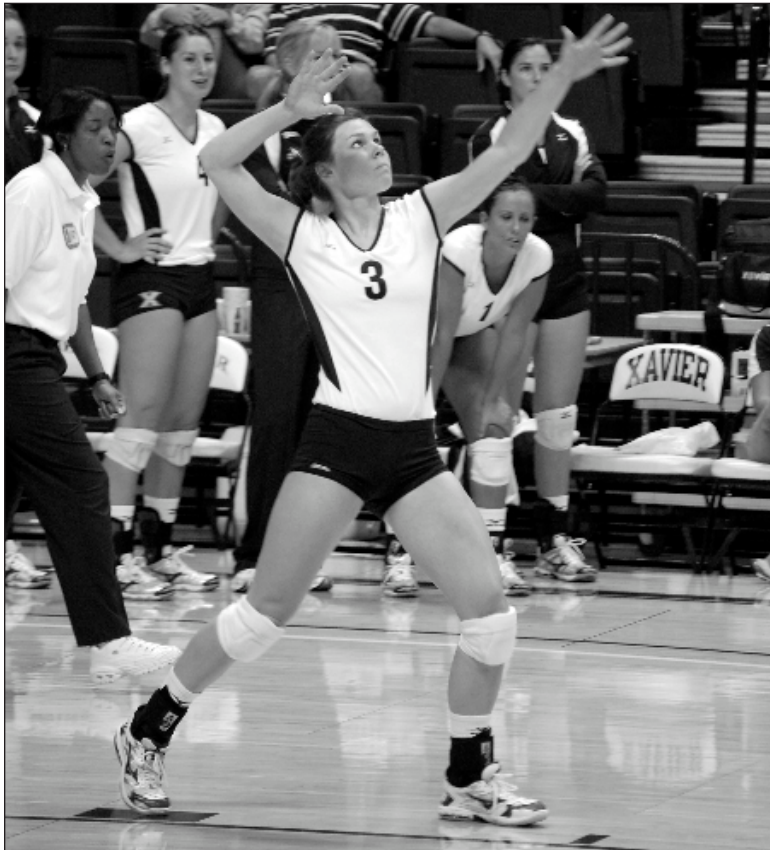
“We have closed the gap between the top and the bottom players on our team,” Deaton said. “We’ve got girls that are very capable of filling in those positions.”

Deaton hopes for a more favorable schedule next season. “We

didn’t lose to a slouch all year. We played some tough competition, and you’re supposed to win a couple of those. We didn’t, but still I was proud of the girls. I think they finished the season really strong,” Deaton said. “I was very proud of

them. I really was.”

Deaton has high expectations for his team next season. “We want to have a winning season. We want to win the A-10, and we want to win more than one match the NCAAAs,” Deaton said.



Senior Lauren Kaminsky played her last game in a Xavier uniform in a Nov. 21 loss to Saint Louis.

Two freshmen shine for Muskies

By Scott Mueller
Asst. Sports Editor

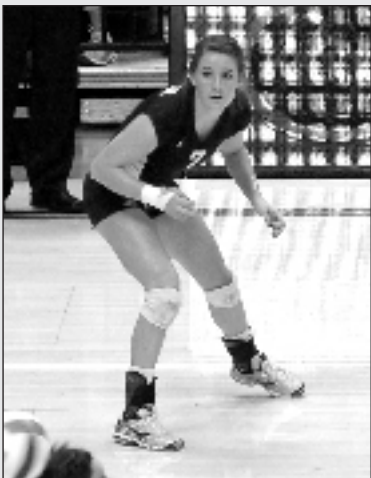
The change from high school to college is one of the most significant and difficult changes for anyone to make.

Many times one must move to a new city, make new friends and take harder classes all at once. Most people do not have to worry about contributing to a Division I athletic program right away as well. Yet that is exactly what freshmen volleyball players Stephanie Vorherr and Alex Smith have done this season.

Both started for the majority of the year, appearing in all 32 matches, with Vorherr appearing in every set this season.

The ability of college programs to remain successful depends greatly upon how quickly the program can reload talent. It is not just about replacing a star player, but about building a system that allows players to realize and utilize their full talents, meaning freshmen seldom see much action in college sports.

“[Playing as a freshman] is emotionally and physically the toughest thing to do in the whole four years,” Xavier volleyball



Stephanie Vorherr was named both the A-10 Libero and Rookie of the Year.

coach Floyd Deaton said. “You’ve got to know the system and be ready to play [major opponents]. You have very little time to grow into the position.”

Vorherr, who led Xavier with 514 digs this season, found her own way to navigate through the rough patches.

“I didn’t really know what to expect,” Vorherr said. “But I got the hang of it, and it was fun. It was a neat learning experience. It’s definitely hard, and you definitely have to work at it.”

The fact that Vorherr and Smith could step in fresh out of training camp and be among the statistical leaders on the team was a surprise to almost everyone involved with Xavier volleyball.

“I came in being like, ‘I don’t even care if I get playing time. It’s just going to be nice being on the team and having that experience,’” said Smith.

As with every sport, the changes from the high school level to the collegiate level are very profound.

“Being a freshman is never easy coming in to the college game,” Xavier assistant coach Christy Utnage said. “It’s a much faster game. We didn’t realize that they would pick up the game so quickly.”

Vorherr, a Cincinnati native, was a four year varsity starter at Mother of Mercy High School, the state champion in 2007 and

runner-up in 2006. Still the transition to Xavier was a major shift.

“The intensity level is a lot different and a lot more intense here,” Vorherr said. “You’re expected to meet certain expectations from the coaches and your teammates every day.”

Smith, from Cor Jesu High School in St. Louis, also had a decorated high school career, and was named to the All-Region and All-District First Team in 2008.

The freshmen have had a lot of help from the upperclassmen. Both Smith and Vorherr claimed that after meeting the girls on the team they felt Xavier was great fit.

“They’ve done a nice job, the upperclassmen, of accepting that these two girls are players,” Deaton said. “They’ve done a great job of saying, ‘Okay, she may be in the same position that I’m in, but I’m going to grab her and pull her up and say this is what you can expect and this is what you’re going to see.’”

Vorherr is an occupational therapy major, while Smith is a sport management major, aspirations that guided their college choices.

With Vorherr and Smith continuing to improve and a core of players ready to step in to replace the three graduating seniors, the future is bright for Xavier volleyball. Vorherr was named both the 2009 Atlantic 10 libero and Rookie of the Year after being named the A-10 Rookie of the week twice and the A-10 defensive player of the week three times.

Smith was named the A-10 Rookie of the week once and both Vorherr and Smith were named to the A-10 All Rookie team.

Despite their success this season, both freshmen want more next year, namely capturing Xavier’s first A-10 title since 2007.

“Those are the type of players that we want to get more of,” Utnage said. “That can come in and contribute right away.”



Alex Smith, a member of the A-10 All Rookie team, was third on the team in kills and second in blocks.

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Cincy Wonderland

BY DES DALE
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Are you feeling shut-in, clinging to the warmth of your heater and a dozen blankets while doing your best impression of the Grinch? Well now is the time to come down from your mountaintop and attend the festivities of Ohio's own Whoville.

Cincinnati is set to play host to several holiday events that look to infuse a festive spirit into even the most humbug of participants.

U.S. Bank Ice Rink on Fountain Square

The U.S. Bank Ice Rink will be open on Fountain Square from Nov. 26 – Feb. 21 from midday to late evening.

The fountain square ice rink is about 7,000 square feet and sits right in the center of the commercial district among the city's most towering buildings.

The rink's location makes it convenient to dine in some of the city's finest restaurants and then work off some of those calories out on the ice. Soon you might see even the biggest Scrooge engaging in some frosty holiday fun.

Walking in a Wild Wonderland at the Cincinnati Zoo

PNC's Festival of Lights continues its 27th year at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (3400 Vine St.). The show runs from Nov. 27 to Jan. 3 at 5-9 p.m. with ticket prices ranging from \$17-\$23, depending on the package chosen.

The event is looking to be greener than ever, showcasing over one million energy-saving festively-colored lights.

The "New Wild Lights Show



Photo courtesy of cincinnatzoo.org

PNC's Festival of Lights is in its 27th year at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

on Swan Lake" features a 20-foot tall computer-controlled tree fit with lights trained to respond and react to the rhythm of various Christmas songs that will be playing around the area.

Not to be outdone by his showier cousin, there is also a 35-foot tall tree that sports over 20,000 lights.

Other sights on display include The Polar Express 4-D Experience, Mrs. Claus' Cottage, a North Polar Express train filled with jolly characters and a few cold-climate animal exhibits will be open as well.

The Wild Wonderland event seems to be a wonderful way to devote an entire evening to celebrating the holidays.

Frisch's Nutcracker

Frisch's is presenting the Nutcracker from Dec. 12-27 at the Aronoff Center (650 Walnut St.), with midday and evening showings each day. Ticket prices range

from \$30-\$70.

The ballet will incorporate Pyotr Tchaikovsky's original score with Val Caniparoli's lively choreography.

The Nutcracker ballet has become a staple in Christmas festivities, with many interpretations and reiterations of the story usually airing around this time.

The story follows the follies of the Nutcracker Prince and young Marie who find themselves entranced in a dreamworld filled with toys and sweets.

Come experience the dream for yourself in an exciting adventure filled with graceful dance numbers and an epic score.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra Concert

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will play a show on Friday, Dec. 18, at the U.S. Bank Arena (100 Broadway St.).

Ticket prices start at \$38.50. The tickets are expensive so

they might be a good Christmas present.

The show starts at 8 p.m. The Trans-Siberian Orchestra mainly plays rock opera styled Christmas Carols.

They are known for modernizing classical orchestra and the ample use of pyrotechnics and vivid stage lighting at their concerts.

The songs they play are mostly taken from or inspired by popular Christmas pieces, though they rework them in a way that employs the fast tempo of rock music with shrieked vocals, distorted sounds and aggressiveness.

What sets them apart from other groups is how well they are able to synthesize the timing and elegance of classical music with the intensity of heavy rock genres.

Who would have thought that matching the misanthropic, raucous nature of heavy-metal rock with the spirited reverence of

Christmas carols would seem like a match made in heaven?

Krohn Conservatory's Holiday Floral Show

The Holiday Floral Show has started at Krohn Conservatory (1501 Eden Park Drive) and is set to run until Jan. 3. Admission is free and the park opens daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The floral show marks a seasonal celebration of the Swedish holiday, Lucia Day, where girls in each family dress up like evergreens and pass out goodies on Dec. 15.

Lucia's Garden includes poinsettias, candles, warm colors and gnomes, which are a festive commonality between Swedish and American holiday culture.

If you're tired of staring at the same evergreens, barren trees and city grime visit Lucia's Garden to get your holiday juices going.

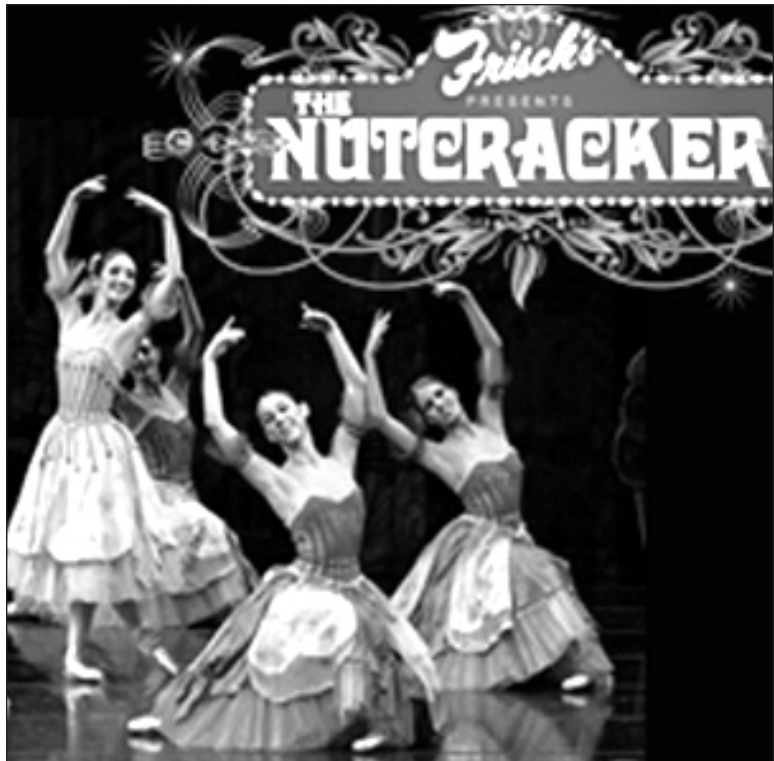


Photo courtesy of cincinnati ballet.com

The Nutcracker ballet is a Christmas favorite.

Singers present '21st Century Disco'

BY CATHERINE STAHL
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Xavier University Singers will take the stage this weekend to perform their show "21st Century Disco."

Singers is a 14-person ensemble that puts on a different show each semester with singing and dancing featuring different musical genres.

This weekend, the group will showcase their singing and dancing to disco music that will "bring the 70's party back to this century," said Singers board member, junior Stephanie Holdmeyer, who also described the show as "an upbeat, energetic, party."

Well-known songs that will be in the show include "I'm Every Woman," "Disco Inferno" and "Turn the Beat Around."

"The all-guys number 'Disco Inferno'—I'm sure will have the crowd laughing...it's awesome," Singers board member, senior Katie Huey said.

A remix of "Stayin' Alive" that includes hip-hop and rap music



Photo courtesy of Alex Lusht

Singers members (from left to right) Emily Schuster, Michelle Anguiano, Ricky Kubrak, Stephanie Holdmeyer and Katie Huey.

is also set to be a crowd favorite, Huey said.

The show will feature a live band to accompany the singers

and a projection screen and light show.

"This semester we have an even bigger band with a full strings sec-

tion. It's going to be like you're at an actual concert. We have some of the guys that can really sound like the Bee Gees, which is

awesome.

"Just like previous semesters we have video shows, great lights and spectacular costumes that'll just really get everyone into the disco feel," Huey said.

The show was choreographed by several people. Numbers were choreographed by Cincinnati Conservatory of Music students Alex Aguilar and Cody Williams, Xavier Singers Alum Derek Brinkley and choreographer Meredith Werden.

"This show's dances are all high energy with a lot of lifts and tricks...more than the past 3 years," Huey said.

"This semester's group is strong in both singing and dancing," said Huey, who also said in "previous shows you [could] tell who [was] stronger in one certain area and weaker in another."

The show, under the direction of Danny Manning, will play Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Student Center Theater. Tickets cost \$5 for students and \$8 for adults.

Bad Romance sparknotes: Decoding Lady Gaga

BY ALY CABRERA
Contributing Writer

Ever had a hard time understanding Lady Gaga? Well, welcome to the club.

The eccentric singer is characterized by her bizarre fashion and is known for being the first singer since the Jackson 5 to have four number one songs in a year.

She has just released a new album— “The Fame Monster”—which includes songs like “Bad Romance” and “Speechless,” both of which were performed at the American Music Awards this past week.

Although her songs frequent the radio and top the charts, her music videos remain mindboggling to the common viewer. So, in an attempt to help the untrained mind decipher the latest Gaga craze, here is a handy guide to the symbols and themes present in her latest hit, “Bad Romance.”

Themes

The music video for “Bad Romance” essentially serves as a vehicle to express the common complexities that develop in a romantic relationship gone awry.

Gaga shows that a bad relationship can have passion, love, revenge, pain, corruption, monster-like behavior, innocence, epiphanies, animalism, violence, destruction, wealth and vulnerability—all of which are presented flawlessly in five minutes and seven seconds.

Symbols

Symbolism is the main form of expression that allows Gaga to convey all the aforementioned themes.



Lady Gaga is characterized by her bizarre fashion. Photo courtesy of beatcrave.com

Although the video is loaded with them, here are the major symbols.

Monsters

In the beginning of the video, Gaga appears in the form of a monster crawling out of a capsule or coffin after being awoken by a blinding light (which can represent knowledge or enlightenment).

Monsters, dressed in white, blinded and emerging like newborns from their capsules, represent the “monster of innocence”—meaning that innocence, shown by the lack of “sight” and the white color, is a negative quality which could cause damage to one’s life, hence the monster (later in the video it is made clear that overcoming innocence is the only way to establish power).

The Floating Diamonds

In this scene, Gaga is still in front of the group of men, but this time she is dressed in black and standing in the middle of thousands of floating diamonds.

This serves to emphasize the moment of change for Gaga’s character as she has shifted from powerlessly innocent to in complete control but corrupt.

Although loss of innocence is often portrayed negatively throughout history and literature, Gaga seems to suggest that this is a positive moment—shown by the beautiful diamonds.

Use of Colors

Throughout the video, the colors worn by Gaga display the current state of the character. For example, white is associated with innocence and black with corruption.

When Gaga appears wearing red, she represents passion, blood, desire, violence and love—all the elements of a “bad romance.”

The End Scene

The final scene shows the great revenge and ultimate act of control as Gaga, dressed in black to show corruption, lies on a bed next to the man with the golden jaw, who has been literally burnt to a crisp by the fire in the previous scene.

This shows the role reversal that occurred, thanks to the loss of innocence and assumption of power by the character.

Now Gaga is the one who had the ultimate control and chose to end the “bad romance” by killing the man who exploited her.

IT'S A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR ME BY CHRISTINE NADERER

1	2	3	4			5	6		7	8	9	10		
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70							71							

- Across
- Pirate’s eyewear accessory
 - Star of Disney’s Pirate movies
 - Three little pigs’ big bad nemesis
 - “__ before __”, except after c...
 - Egg for breakfast
 - Lemon or lime drink
 - Another pirate accessory
 - Shepherding “gallant pig”
 - Pixar’s favorite clown fish—where is he, anyway?
 - NASCAR great, Earnhardt
 - It hurts to stub one
 - Borrower’s benefactor
 - Not Harrison, Starr, or McCartney
 - Bright colors, noble gas, or a Dodge car
 - Grp. for recovering addicts
 - Pirate sing-along: “__ ho ho and a bottle of rum!”
 - Elmer’ _____s or Crazy
 - A pirate’s punishment
 - PB and chocolate candy favorite
 - “Let’s make a _____!”

- Old toy attached to a string (originally invented as a weapon)
- One of your five senses (you used it a lot at Thanksgiving)
- Alaska, to the USPS
- Bert’s best bud
- Get moldy and smelly
- Kanga’s baby, in Winnie the Pooh
- A pirate’s weapon of choice
- B & O is one in Monopoly, so is Short Line
- “Hello,” to Buddhists (or fans of Lost)
- In French, these 2 vowels get attached
- Dinner and a movie, perhaps
- Popular steak sauce
- Song by the guys in 27-across, “I am the _____”
- Captain Hook’s downfall

Down

- Actor of “Star Wars,” “Moulin Rouge,” and “Big Fish”
- Alpine fold music: “Yudl - Ay - WEEE - Hooooo!”
- “It’s _____, my dear Watson.”
- ____ Chang’s China Bistro
- If you want to smoke a good one, go to Cuba
- Satan’s hangout
- Lassie is one, so are Odie and Toto
- FREEBIE! “EM”
- Flintsones baby, _____bles
- “Republic” philosopher
- Poetic synonym for the color black
- Golf ball’s tiny supporter
- Adam and Eve’s hangout, for a while
- Slippery ocean animal, one type is electric
- How many partridges were in the pear tree?
- A horse and _____’s baby is a mule
- Band of “Hotel California” and “Desperado”
- Simba’s childhood friend
- Popular brand of toothpaste
- Milky gemstone
- Boxers or briefs?
- To draw out or lengthen, to “_____ out”
- American rock band, Kings of _____
- General _____ Chicken: you might order it at 4-down
- “She”’s masculine counterpart
- 7-across’s character, Jack
- Exam or quiz
- Asian country split by the DMZ
- Bunch of clothes in the washing machine
- “Yes”’s negative alternative
- Project Runway’s recent winner
- Talking horse of TV: Mr. _____
- 52-down, backwards this time
- Back for more! 66-across again
- Golfer’s goal
- A pirate’s might lead to treasure.
- Volleyball move, before a spike
- With 69-down, store message: “Come on in, we’re _____!”
- See 68-down

Live Wires

(week of Dec. 1)

Lewis Black

It’s going down at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Taft Theatre (317 East 5th St.). Tickets start at \$37.50.

Matisyahu

The show will kickoff at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Bogart’s (2621 Vine St.). Tickets are \$22.50 in advance and \$24.50 day of the show.

The King Khan & BBQ Show

The concert will start at 10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Northside Tavern (4163 Hamilton Ave.). Entrance is free.

New Releases

(as of Dec. 1)

Souls of Mischief

Montezuma’s Revenge (Clear Label Records)

The Bravery

Stir The Blood (Island Records)

R. Kelly

Untitled (Jive)

BRIEFS

Biology Movie Club Night

From 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, Biology Club will be hosting a viewing of the movie Gattaca in Albers 103, which will be followed by a discussion and analysis of scientifically-engineered human evolution. The event is free and open to the public.

Critical Centers Film Series

From 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, the Women’s Center will be showing the animated movie “Mulan” in their living room, which will be followed by a discussion led by Husman Hall RA Mary Weichart. Refreshments will be served during the free event.

Advent Lessons and Carol Service

From 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, come get in the festive spirit as Xavier University’s Campus Ministry and the Department of Music will be providing carols and lessons in Bellarmine Chapel. The event is free and open to the public.

Xavier Music Series presents Soojin Ahn

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, The Xavier Music Series will present a performance by classical pianist Soojin Ahn in the Gallagher Student Center Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students with an ID. Additional info can be found on the Xavier Music Series website.

Catherine Stahl,
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2010 HOROSCOPES

The Xavier Edition

Amy Windhorst, Features Editor



ARIES

March 21 - April 19

A circle of love and unity will surround you when you are literally surrounded by 70 percent of the men's basketball team in EPU. These feelings of security and spiritual blessing will be shattered, however, upon Kenny Frease's obstruction of your direct line of sight to the blackboard.



TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Highly charged energy will allow you to dream big while anticipating the announcement of a spring Student Activities Council concert. Upon the announcement of a Nickelback/Creed double-header, begin the confiscation of sharp, metal objects from those in your dorm's hall.



GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Your ability to recognize psychological ambiguities will come in handy while reviewing the Student Government Association election platforms. Your objectivity will be compromised, however, by the student newspaper's series of professional, hard-hitting editorial cartoons featuring talking office supplies.



CANCER

June 21 - July 22

During Mars' transition, your physical powers will be enhanced. However, you are still unable to climb the hill to R2 without complaining.



LEO

July 23 - August 22

After the rejuvenating experience of discovering your life's true mission, you will encounter cosmic interference upon applying to the Student Government Association for funding. You will respond by refining your self-expression in a series of ironic Facebook statuses. Between one and three people will like this.



VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

There's a renaissance going on within you that will culminate during spring break 2010. The re-emergence of your inventive and creative self will lead to the creation/digestion of never-attempted drink combinations as well as the subsequent awkwardness between you and your roommate.



LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

A shift in energy in January will cause complete abandonment of your new year's dieting resolutions. After a full month of passion-filled Subway consumption, Saturn's movement will cause your durability to fail on an early March trek up the stairs to Elet.



SCORPIO

October 23 - November 22

Surrendering to a higher power allows you to alleviate the struggles you experienced in 2009. Unfortunately, your higher power isn't great at writing term papers—expect your GPA to fall between 1.0 and 0.1.



SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 22

Intelligent brainstorming is a must when dealing with technology this year. After a library computer ingests your PowerPoint presentation, consider reverting to more traditional presentation technologies such as the tri-fold poster and the stone tablet.



CAPRICORN

December 23 - January 19

Jupiter expands whatever he touches—in this case, it will be your roommate's weight. A first-hand encounter with his/her cellulite will cause you to question your faith, creating a gap in your fashion awareness due to three weeks of missed 10 p.m. masses.



AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 19

Your self-confidence and assertiveness will come in handy in April, when a dorm-wide feud erupts over whether to watch "Glee" or "Lost" on Tuesday nights. Resolve the situation with a smoke detector and a well-timed burnt bag of popcorn.



PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Some of your dreams will turn into reality during 2010. Unfortunately, this will only apply to dreams concerning bad haircuts and forgotten homework assignments—not the one where you rode The Beast with the Blue Blob, Father Graham and Joe Hughes.